

Mayor and Board of Selectmen Meeting
 Minutes of March 3, 2025
 Also Available via Zoom:
 Meeting ID
 821 6324 0984

TOPIC	Discussion
PRESENT: ABSENT:	Mayor Seney, Deputy Mayor Simmons, Selectman Hayes, Selectwoman Marion, Selectman Pempek, Selectman Pomes, and Selectman Paquin
1. Call to Order by the Presiding Officer	Mayor Seney called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance	Led by Mayor Seney
3. Public Comment	3 minute maximum per person Mike Morrill of 86 Prospect Street asked that the Selectmen during the budget process take care of what we have, including the needs of the school.
4. Approval of the Minutes	A. Minutes from February 18, 2025, Mayor, and Board of Selectmen Meeting Selectman Pomes made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2025, Mayor and Board of Selectmen Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Selectman Paquin and passed unanimously. B. Minutes from February 22, 2025, Special Mayor, and Board of Selectmen Meeting. Selectwoman Marion made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2025, Special Mayor and Board of Selectmen Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Selectman Pempek and passed unanimously.
5. Petitions & Communications	Town Administrator Sistare advised that the town has received a request to abandon John Bennett Rd. The Town is hiring an outside firm to review.
6. Reports of Special Committees	None
7. Reports of Standing Committee	General Government Committee Nothing to report at this time.

8.	Unfinished Business	<p>A. Putnam EMS</p> <p>Ed Higgins and Tammy Szyrka shared with the Board the upcoming FY 25/26 budget for EMS. Currently they are predicting a deficit due to lack of reimbursement from insurance and uninsured. Putnam EMS made a request to add \$45,000 to next years budget from the Town.</p> <p>Discussion ensued about the various locations previously discussed for EMS.</p> <p>Selectman Hayes made a motion to reinstate the AD Hoc Committee and to purchase and deliver a mobile home/trailer to house EMS at the Church Street location. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Simmons and passed unanimously.</p> <p>Selectman Hayes made a motion at 7:50 PM to recess the Mayor and Selectmens meeting so that the republican members could caucus. The motion was seconded by Selectman Paquin and passed unanimously.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Simmons made a motion to reconvene the Mayor and Board of Selectmen’s meeting at 7:57 PM. The motion was seconded by Selectman Paquin and passed unanimously.</p>
		<p>B. Mayor’s Budget to Board of Selectmen</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) General Government Committee 2) General Government Revenue 3) Capital Improvement plan <p>Deputy Mayor Simmons made a motion to have Mayor Seney cut \$100,000 from the General Government Budget. Member Paquin seconded the motion.</p> <p>Discussion ensued. Mayor Seney stated that he had already cut \$200,000 from the Department Head Requests and he would not cut additional funds. The Selectmen could cut their budget as a recommendation to the Board of Finance.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Simmons rescinded his motion.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Simmons made a motion to send the mayor’s proposed budget to the Board of Finance with the inclusion of the extra \$50,000 for EMS, a zero use of fund balance, for a total mill rate of 18.92. The motion was seconded Selectman Pempek and passed unanimously.</p>
9.	Grant Considerations and Updates	None
10.	New Business	<p>A. Consider the appointment of Shawn Bates (D) to the WPCA Board, with a term to expire 11/30/27.</p> <p>Selectman Paquin made a motion to appoint Shawn Bates to the WPCA Board, with a term to expire 11/30/27. The motion was seconded by Selectman Pempek and passed unanimously.</p>

		<p>B. Consider the appointment of Shawn Bates (D) to the Recreation Commission, with a term to expire 11/30/27.</p> <p>Selectwoman Marion made a motion to appoint Shawn Bates to the Recreation Commission, with a term to expire 11/30/27. The motion was seconded by Selectman Paquin and passed unanimously.</p> <p>C. Consider the appointment of Andrea Devlin (D) to the Commission on Aging, with a term to expire 11/30/27.</p> <p>Selectman Paquin made a motion to appoint Andrea Devlin to the Commission on Aging, with a term to expire 11/30/27. The motion was seconded by Selectman Pempek and passed unanimously.</p>
11.	Public Comment	<p>3 minute maximum per person</p> <p>None</p>
12.	Executive Session	<p>WPCA Union Contract</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Simmons made a motion to recess the Mayor and Selectmen's meeting at 8:34 PM to enter executive session for the purpose of WPCA Union Contract, inviting in Town Administrator Sistare and WPCA Chairman Perron. Selectman Pomes seconded the motion.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Simmons made a motion to reconvene the Mayor and Board of Selectmen's meeting at 8:50 PM. The motion was seconded by Selectman Pomes and passed unanimously.</p> <p>Selectman Pempek made a motion to approve the WPCA union contract as presented. The motion was seconded by Selectwoman Marion and passed unanimously.</p> <p>Selectman Hayes stated that he voted yes for the contract because the contract was ratified by its members. As a member of the WPCA Board he feels disappointed that some employee hours have been cut. He felt it would create a hardship for the WPCA. He would like to request that for the next negotiations a WPCA Board Member and the WPCA Superintendent be part of the negotiations.</p>
13.	Adjournment	<p>Selectman Pempek made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 PM. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Simmons and passed unanimously.</p>
		<p>Respectfully submitted: Denise A. Geeza, Executive Assistant</p>

